

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 19, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 19, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1-26 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1, 7, 16, 21, and 22 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the Examiner indicated that the amendment to the claims, in particular claims 7 and 16, did not include the proper markings to indicate the changes. Claims 7 and 22 have been corrected to provide the proper markings to indicate the changes. However, Applicants were not able to identify any mark-up errors regarding claim 16. Applicants submit that the amendment presented herewith include all of the proper markings to indicate the changes.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and
Signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Gero G. McClellan, Reg. No. 44,227/

Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)